

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /143 W

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P 241651Z JUL 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 119

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 20219

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, NS

SUBJECT: SVN BILATERALS: GVNDEL VIEWS

1. PHONG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GVNDEL TO THE LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD TALKS, DISCUSSED THE NEGOTIATIONS SITUATION WITH USDEL OFFICERS JULY 24. WITH THE 45-DAY TIME LIMIT SET BY THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON SOUTH VIETNAM INTERNAL AFFAIRS EXPIRING JULY 28, THE GVN HAD NO PLANS TO MAKE ANY ALL-OUT EFFORT TOWARDS PUNCTUALITY. PHONG SAID THAT THE GVN WAS CONVINCED THAT PRG HAD NO INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND SOUGHT ONLY TO PROLONG THE TALKS " AS AT KLEBER."

2. REPEATED GVN EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE PRG IN PRIVATE SESSIONS HAD MET WITH FAILURE. PRG HAD REFUSED RESTRICTED SESSIONS AT LACELLE OR ELSEWHERE AND HAD ALSO REFUSED GVN OFFER OF PRIVATE HIEU-VIEN DISCUSSIONS. PHONG'S INVITATION TO HIS PRG COUNTERPARTS TO PURELY SOCIAL OCCASIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OUTSIDE PARIS HAD GONE UNANSWERED.

3. PHONG PREDICTED THAT THE LA CELLE TALKS WOULD GO ON INDEFINITELY AT THE PRESENT UNHURRIED PACE OF ONE MEETING WEEKLY. ( HE SAID THT PRG HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO  
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SCHEDULE SESSIONS MORE FREQUENTLY.) PHONG DID NOT BELIEVE

THAT PRG WOULD SEEK A CHANGE OF VENUE; ON THE CONTRARY, HE BELIEVED THAT PRG WOULD NOT ABANDON THEIR PAST ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFER DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE TPJMC ISSUES TO PARIS.

4. CONCERNING FRENCH OFFICIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PRG, PHONG SAID THAT QUAI HAD OFFERED PRG RESEIGNATION OF ITS REPRESENTATION IN PARIS AS "OFFICE OF THE PRG SVN." THE GVN HAD VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THIS, BUT IN ANY CASE PRG HAD REJECTED THE "OFFICE" TITLE AND WERE HOLDING OUT FOR FULL "EMBASSY" NOMENCLATURE.

5. CONCERNING RECENT SVN "THIRD FORCE" RELATIONS WITH GVNDL, PHONG SAID THAT SAIGON HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE EXILES WERE TO BE RECEIVED BY GVNDL OFFICERS, BUT AT THE GVN EMBASSY. THE LATTER WOULD MAINTAIN AN "OPEN DOOR POLICY TO ANY AND ALL SOUTH VIETNAMESE CALLERS, BUT WOULD ACCORD SPECIAL STATUS TO NON. PHONG EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL BELIEF THAT PRINCIPAL "THIRD COMPONENT" PERSONALITIES WERE TO BE FOUND IN SAIGON, NOT AT PARIS. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO DESIGNATE THE "THIRD COMPONENT" OF THE NCNRC WOULD BE FOR THE GVN AND PRG EACH TO SELECT HALF WITHOUT EITHER SIDE HAVING ANY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THE OTHER'S NOMINATIONS. THIS PROCEDURE WAS FAVORED BY THE GVN AS A PRACTICAL MATTER BUT OPPOSED BY PRG FOR ANOTHER REASON: NEUTRALISTS WOULD RESIST NOMINATION BY PRG BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST STIGMA ACQUIRED THEREBY.

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